NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

August 22, 1997

DINO FAMILIES MEETS ARCHAEOPTERYX

This remarkable "family reunion" became possible thanks to the **Dino Families** exhibit extension through October 19. Archaeopteryx, the world's oldest bird, will be visiting The Field October 4-19. Dino fans and friends who can't get enough of traveling back in time will enjoy seeing them all! To let the folks know that the fun continues, the extension dates will be put on building signage and banners. Our exciting fax cover sheets featuring Dino Mom will be available for you to enjoy with the extension dates added. Our own improved exhibit labels will stay with the **Dino Families** forever! According to the agreement with Kokoro (the **Dino Families** distributor) all future venues must have a display (of our making), crediting Field Museum for the labels.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

RESETAR JUDGES 4-H HERPETOLOGY COMPETITION

On Thursday, July 17 Collection Manager **Alan Resetar**, (Zoology, Amphibians and Reptiles) had the distinct honor of judging the 4-H Herpetology entries at the Porter County Fair in Indiana. The animal owners ranged in age from ten to eighteen and the competition consisted of about thirty live reptiles and amphibians. Alan found all the animals to be in top condition and meticulously groomed. For example, all of the box turtles' shells were highly polished with olive oil (not Turtle Wax). All animals were awarded blue ribbons. The coveted grand champion was awarded to a box turtle with the reserve grand champion going to an Australian bearded dragon. Alan hopes this was his last year for judging the herpetology competition. He would like to move up to baked goods, canned fruit, or anything more palatable than a herp.

TEEN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROJECT - J.E.T (JUNIOR EARTH TEAM)

The Teen Environmental Education Training Project provides training, experience and opportunities in local ecology to Chicago area teens (ages fourteen to eighteen) who have expressed an interest in conservation and in the environment. Teen members, collectively known as J.E.T. are from under-served communities within the Chicago metropolitan area and are already involved in programs with the Chicago Park District. **Carol Fialkowski** and **Laura Dini,** ECP, in collaboration with the Chicago Park District and with a grant from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, developed and implemented this Teen Project.

Continued on next page

On July 23 and August 6, Laura organized a grand tour of the Museum for the J.E.T teens. **John Slapcinsky, Janet Voight, Dave Willard, Bill Burger, Al Resetar, Cassy Redhed, Phil Parrillo** and of course, the always supportive **Paul Baker,** were on hand to explain and answer questions about their departments and their work. The teens have studied local environmental issues, including recycling, gardening with native plants, water quality and geology. In addition they learned techniques to teach their new-found knowledge and skills to younger children!

During the school year, the Project will provide internships for a few competitively selected students. Because of its successful beginning, this training project has been extended for another summer. It will now last through August of 1999!

LEADERS TO RULERS

The Development of Political Centralization

A one-day conference at The Field Museum
Saturday, October 18, 1997
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in Montgomery Ward Hall

The record of the first modern humans illuminates a global-wide pattern of relative social equality and decentralized decision making processes. Prior to about 10,000 years ago, there are no indications of clear social, political, or economic hierarchies. In these early millennia archaeological markers of social ranking are lacking and there is a similar absence of evidence pointing to the presence of leaders, chiefs or rulers. The pattern of social equality began to change at different moments and at different rates in various parts of the world in the course of the last 10,000 years. In some areas, politically centralized hierarchies emerged very early and developed rapidly, while in others, political centralization never emerged outside the context of western colonialism. The present conference will consider both the patterns of similarities as well as significant differences in the evolution of political centralization in diverse environments across the globe.

PRESENTATIONS BY -
Brian Bauer, Brian Billman, Winifred Creamer, Carole Crumley, Timothy Earle, Gary Feinman, Antonio Gilman, Kristian Kristiansen, Patricia McAnany, Carla Sinapoli, Gil Stein and Anne Underhill

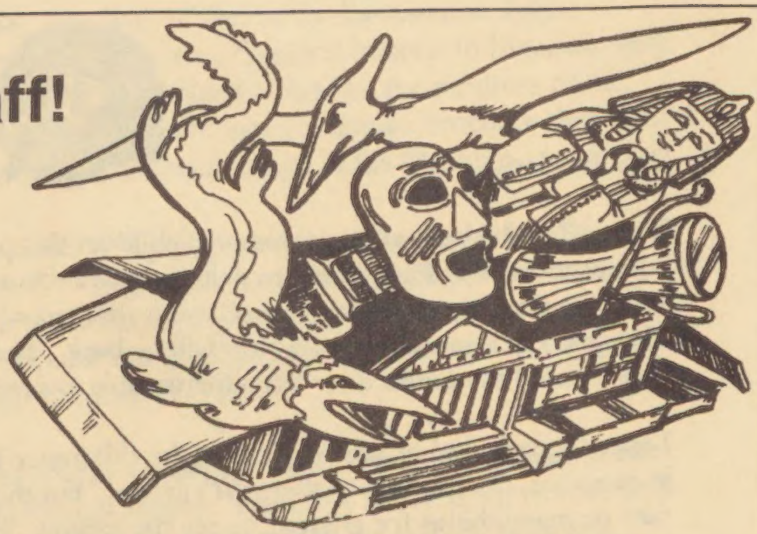
For more information contact the Anthropology office at ext. 444

FAREWELL PARTY FOR LYNN HOBBS
Friday, August 22, 1997
4:00 p.m. in the Exhibits Area
Coffee and Cake
ALL INVITED!

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Field Museum Staff!

Get involved with public education!



IT'S EASY!

Harris Educational Loan Program
Serving Chicago-area educators since 1911

If you have kids in school, know a teacher or educator, or just want to help out a school near where you live—you can be the conduit to get Harris loan materials out to the public! Help out busy educators by picking things up on your way home, then drop them off at a school, and return them to Harris. More than a dozen Museum staff members already borrow Harris materials for use with their own families, in their childrens' classrooms, or just to hand off to a teacher they know—and you can too! Just take a catalog to a teacher (or have them look at our new web site at http://www.fmnh.org/education/Harris_Loan) and have them request the materials they want you to pick up and deliver from Harris Loan!

The Harris Center loans a wide variety of educational materials to Chicago-area public and private institutions such as schools, day-care centers, libraries, nature centers, and groups such as the cub scouts. Come down to Harris and find out how you can help take Field Museum materials out to those who need them!

OPEN UP ONE OF OUR EXPERIENCE BOXES– AND DISCOVER A WHOLE MUSEUM INSIDE!

United Way Day at The Field Museum

Dear Fielders,

We opened the eyes of more than 400 children this past Tuesday. *The Gift In Kind* program was a huge success, The Field Museum paired up with United Way and invited organizations to visit us and view Dinosaur Families. Most of the children who entered our doors had never been to our Museum, but I can assure you, they will be back. The awe inspiring view of Stanley Field Hall as they entered the South door left a memorable impression on all of the children.

I spent a great deal of time explaining the difference between our mummies and the ones they see in cartoons. I explained to them *"It's for real,"* but they had a hard time grasping the concept. We take so many things for granted, to see the exhibits through an unknowing child's eye is enlightening.

Dinosaur Families and Life Over Time were the favorites. The young one's kept telling me how much they liked the "orausauruses," which translates into Maiasaurus and our other dinosaurs on display. Our volunteers working these exhibits had their hands full, especially the scrambled eggs activity center in Dinosaur Families. All of our volunteers did a great job, as always.

Thanks again to everyone who helped make the United Way Day at The Field Museum a special one. I appreciate all who took the time to say hello to these children and those who helped Public Services at the South entrance. In the future we hope to invite many more United Way Organizations through our doors, by doing so we help "improve people's lives and build strong communities - by raising hopes and reaching dreams…"

Sincerely,

Annie Crawley
Chairperson United Way Crusade of Mercy

DOCKET REPORT

The *Natural News* will be featuring a weekly summary of the topics discussed in **John McCarter's** weekly management docket meetings that are of general interest to Museum staff. The meeting of August 18 opened with an update by **Willard White** on the progress of the Connecting Campaign and the presentation of the beautiful new Campaign brochure that should excite our potential donors about the benefits the Campaign brings to the Museum.

It certainly is no secret that our summer attendance figures have been spectacular but **Diane White** reported that last week's attendance of 47,386 people was the biggest yet this summer for the Museum! **Dinosaur Families** has been the main driver of increased attendance and Laura Gates noted that due to the overwhelming popularity of this exhibit, the Museum has negotiated the extension of **Dinosaur Families** through October 19, 1997.

On the subject of parking, Diane White was able to secure the Park District's approval of our plan to expand the West Lot by fourteen additional spaces. The CTA Board is set to vote on a new CTA rush hour bus route between the Northwestern/Union stations and the Museum Campus. More details on the routes and timetables for the new bus route will be available once the plan has been finalized by the CTA Board in September.

Finally, it is with great regret that we report the departure of a valued staff member. **Lucy Bukowski** announced her resignation last week to accept a position as the Deputy Director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science outside of Detroit. Best wishes to Lucy in her new career.

Submitted by **Felisia Wesson**

More CEEB news --

ORNITHOLOGISTS FLOCK TO MINNEAPOLIS

Last week fourteen researchers associated with The Field Museum attended meetings of the American Ornithologists' Union in Minneapolis. Research Associate and Computer Systems Specialist **Peter Lowther** (Zoology, Birds and Computing) organized the scientific program for the entire meeting. Other Field Museum participation included posters and talks about ongoing research which described projects conducted in the bird division, Environmental and Conservation Programs and the Biochemistry Labs. Presentations included: an analysis of birds that perished in Lake Michigan during spring migration, by Collection Manager **Dave Willard** and others; a study of birds introduced into the Miami, Florida area, undergraduate intern **Erik Rothacker;** an analysis of diet and mortality for two owl species wintering in Minnesota, staff members **Tom Gnoske** and **Ben Marks;** a molecular study of evolution in the wrens, U. of C. graduate student Keith Barker; a view of the importance of genetic structure for conservation, Assistant Curator **John Bates;** and an examination of the most appropriate kinds of species for setting conservation priorities, Conservation Ecologist **Doug Stotz,** Environmental and Conservation Programs.

Welcome!

The Museum Affairs Department recently added two new staff members, **Sophia Shaw and Bryn Wagner**. **Sophia Shaw** joined Museum Affairs as special projects manager on August 4. Her initial projects include the **Assignment: Rescue** and **Philippines** exhibits. In addition to these exhibits projects, Sophia will work on budgeting, planning and a variety of new initiatives for Museum Affairs. Sophia comes to us from the Museum of Contemporary Art. Prior to that she was project coordinator and curatorial assistant for the Monet exhibit at The Art Institute. She can be reached at ext. 732.

Bryn Wagner joined Museum Affairs as **Millennium** project manager on July 28. In that role she will oversee and coordinate the organizational and administrative aspects of this city-wide event. Among other responsibilities, Bryn will manage the collaborative relationships between participating Chicago institutions, oversee promotional activities and assist with fund-raising. Prior to joining The Field Museum, Bryn was Assistant Director of the National Arts Journalism Program at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism. She can be reached at ext. 736.

In the Exhibits Department, **Emma Moskalevskaya** is the new administrative assistant for Special Exhibits. She replaces **Mia Schillace,** who has been promoted to Coordinator of Special Exhibits. Emma can be reached at ext. 737.

Please join us in welcoming Sophia, Bryn and Emma.

♬ PERSONAL NOTES ♪

A hand built vessel by the museum's own **Julie Pitzen,** is one of the many featured artworks in Woman Made Gallery's Member's Show. The show runs from August 8 - 29. Woman Made Gallery will become one of the Field Museum's neighbors when it moves to South Prairie Avenue in September.

Last Friday a security guard found a little gray and white kitten which had been left in the **Nature Walk** exhibit in the museum. **Letitia Zwickert** came in from lunch and was immediately taken in by the big blueish gray eyes; hearing that no one else had volunteered, she took it home. The kitten is a he, he is now three weeks old, and his name is **Marshall Field.** He gives all his thanks to that wonderful security guard and all the nice kind people up in exhibits who have given him so much care. Meow, meow!!

Editor's note: All staff members are welcome to submit personal items directly to the *Natural News.* These may include: birth and death announcements, news of gallery openings or band dates, lost and found notices, or sales. It is not necessary to go through a supervisor to submit personal material.